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E.O. 12958: DECL: 1/8/2010  
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [KJUS](#) [PHUM](#) [PINS](#) [RW](#)  
SUBJECT: POLICE ARREST PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFUL INGABIRE'S AIDE  
FOR POSSIBLE GENOCIDE CRIMES

REF: A. KIGALI 66  
[1](#)B. KIGALI 67

Classified By: Ambassador W. Stuart Symington for reasons 1.4 (b) (d)

[1](#)1. (SBU) Police on February 6 arrested Joseph Ntawangundi, an aide to would-be presidential candidate Victoire Ingabire, on charges that a gacaca court in 2007 tried and convicted him in absentia for genocide-related crimes. Ingabire's camp shortly afterward released a press statement, claiming Ntawangundi was out of the country during the genocide. According to one local source, a gacaca court in Eastern Province may indeed have convicted one Joseph Ntawangundi, but it may be a different individual with the same name. (Note: The arrest came three days after an unknown group of individuals at or near a local government office assaulted Ingabire and Ntawangundi, succeeding in grabbing Ingabire's handbag and ripping off Ntawangundi's shirt. Days before that, pro-government newspaper The New Times reported that Ingabire's own mother had been tried and convicted of genocide-related crimes. End Note.)

[1](#)2. (C) COMMENT: It strikes us as unlikely that Ntawangundi would have returned to Rwanda if he or the FDU-Inkingi political group that Ingabire chairs felt he were at risk of arrest for genocide-related crimes. In the absence of reliable information, the most plausible explanation is mistaken identity. END COMMENT.  
SYMINGTON